

Assistant Director, Research and Reports
THRU : Acting Chief, Economic Research
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8 November 1960

Reclassification of Certain Data in Despatches from US Embassy Moscow.

1. During the fiscal year 1961, ERA is planning to continue its series of unclassified reports for limited external distribution. Two of the major reports scheduled for release are: (a) QRR Project 10.2677, Soviet National Accounts, 1950 and 1955-58; (b) QRR Project 10.1626, 1955 Ruble-Dollar Ratios for Consumption.

2. In the preparation of these two reports certain data were obtainable only from Embassy Moscow Despatches. The data used from these despatches were, in every case, prices for goods and services sold at official retail outlets in the city of Moscow. The classification of the despatches are either Official Use Only or Confidential. It is requested that permission be asked of the State Department to allow us to cite these data without the requirement of indicating the classification of the originating despatches. No other classified sources have been cited in the research reports.

3. There is a precedence for this procedure. The RAND Corporation in compiling similar data for an unclassified report* received permission from the State Department to cite retail prices of food products from Embassy Moscow Despatches as originating from "unpublished materials".

4. Attached as appendices to this memorandum are: (a) a list of despatch numbers, dates and classifications from which retail price data were obtained for the preparation of reports cited in Paragraph 1; (b) three copies of the original despatches as samples of the type of despatch from which the prices were acquired.

* Chapman, Janet G. Retail Food Prices in the USSR, 1937-48, RM-707-1, Revised 13 January 1953.

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

Attachments

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